

MN-01 District Primer

In 2024, Republican Brad Finstad won this seat by **64,554 votes—that's 86 votes per precinct**. If we can persuade just 87 voters per precinct, we can win this year. With your help, we're going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates

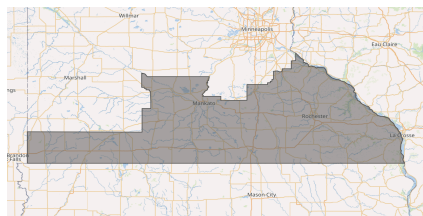
Early Voting begins: September 18

Midterms: November 3, 2026

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 167,186 (42.9%) Trump: 213,794 (54.8%)	Rachel Bohman (D): 156,375 (41.4%) Brad Finstad (R): 220,929 (58.5%)	Jeff Ettinger (D): 125,457 (42.3%) Brad Finstad (R): 159,621 (53.8%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Rochester pop. 121,382
- Mankato, pop. 44,495

Geography

Minnesota's First Congressional District stretches along Minnesota's southern border with Iowa, from the South Dakota border in the west to the Wisconsin border in the east. It contains all or part of 21 counties. The district is primarily rural with rich rolling prairies and a strong agricultural heritage, although this is changing as the city of Rochester grows in population. It is one of the most productive areas in the country for livestock and meat production as well as crops (soybeans and grains). The Mayo Clinic was founded, and its largest hospital is located in Rochester.

Citizenry

96.8% of district residents are citizens, and 81.9% of residents are white. The Hispanic population is 7.6% and Black residents total 3.9%. Most residents speak English, with Spanish being the language of 4.76% of households, with a smattering of other languages, including Somali and Amharic. 13.7% of the population is on Medicaid, 14.3% are on Medicare and 5% are uninsured. About 10% of households in MN-01 rely on SNAP food aid. The largest share of households in MN-01 have an income in the \$75k-100k range and 10.1% of the population lives below the poverty line.

The Local Vibe

More than 32% of employed people work in healthcare, social assistance and education, all of which have been damaged by Trump's actions- NIH grant cuts endanger clinical research and jobs, and cuts to Medicaid have forced Mayo to close 6 satellite clinics. Farmers and meat producers here have been badly hurt by Trump's tariffs, the loss of immigrant workers and Trump's plan to import millions of pounds of duty-free "beef trimmings".

There have been a number of protests at public appearances by Brad Finstad, and a great many demonstrations against ICE actions.

The district, though conservative, voted for Amy Klobuchar in all of her runs for U.S. Senate.

Sign up for another event: mobilize.us/swingleft

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Key Issues

- **Threats to healthcare:** The world-renowned Mayo Clinic, especially its local outreach, has suffered from federal cuts.
 - **Jobs:** Many jobs here are in hospitals and schools, two sectors that are greatly harmed by Trump's budget cuts, and manufacturers have "downsized" because of the effects of tariffs.
 - **Immigration:** There were ICE actions in many places outside Minneapolis - especially threatening farm labor and meat plant workers.
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About the Candidates

Brad Finstad| GOP Incumbent

Brad Finstad is a 4th-generation farmer and resident of the New Ulm area, a graduate of the University of Minnesota (in Agriculture) and he served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2003- 2009.

He positions himself as an advocate for farmers and rural development, and proudly mentions the role of the Mayo Clinic in medical innovation. He says the rising cost of living is a result of wasteful spending in Washington and says he will fight for balanced budgets and tax relief for families. His support for Trump's policies and budget contradict these claims - he supported the DOGE cuts and NIH cuts to the Mayo clinic and research, the cuts to Medicaid that cause existential harm to rural hospitals, and for the budget that added \$4 trillion to the deficit.

He has taken thousands of dollars from Big Ag and tens of thousands from health care and Big Pharma corporations and he votes in their favor.

Jake Johnson| Democratic Candidate

Jake Johnson grew up in Stewartville with 10 siblings, the son of a garbageman and a meter reader. As a child his family relied on SNAP and Medicaid - he knows first-hand the struggles of working class families to get by. For the past 20 years he has been a math teacher, teaching everything from remedial math to advanced Calculus. He has wrestled with complex policy problems as the Governmental Relations Coordinator and as a bargaining team member for his union.

Johnson's main priorities are to bring down costs, take on corruption and invest in the district's small towns. He wants to end the tariffs and the Iran war that drive up prices for groceries, fuel and fertilizer. He will make the tax code fair for ordinary tax-payers, undoing the budget that cuts aid to families in order to cut taxes for billionaires and big corporations. To invest in small towns he will fight for a bipartisan farm bill, protect Social Security, Medicare and Veteran's benefits, and undo the cuts to Medicaid and SNAP. He supports a moratorium on data centers until key protections are in place.

The contrast: Finstad is a multi-millionaire, out of touch with the people he claims to represent. Jake Johnson will be a voice for the ordinary people of MN-01, someone who understands the consequences and the mathematics of the policies he supports.